



FISCAL YEAR 2011 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

As submitted to the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies on March 26, 2010:

Title I-Agriculture Programs

Agricultural Research Services (ARS):

Recipient: Eastern Regional Research Center

Amount: \$2,250,000

Location: 600 East Mermaid Lane, Wyndmoor, PA 19038

Project Description: Congress provided \$2,000,000 to fund hides and leather research at the ARS research facility in Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania. I urge the Subcommittee to provide an increase of \$250,000 this year to support this ongoing research, which enhances livestock producer profitability and contributes to our \$23 billion annual trade surplus in agriculture.

Recipient: Eastern Regional Research Center

Amount: \$675,000

Location: 600 East Mermaid Lane, Wyndmoor, PA 19038

Project Description: The ARS facility at Wyndmoor conducts research on sustainable biofuels production through the development of new processes to enhance the use of barley as a cellulosic biomass feedstock. I urge the Subcommittee to provide funding to continue this important research.

Recipient: University of Pennsylvania

Location: Philadelphia, PA

Amount Requested: \$500,000

Project Description: I urge the Subcommittee to provide funding for the University of Pennsylvania's Regional Reference Salmonella Laboratory. Funding will support the university's ongoing development of rapid diagnostic testing methods for salmonella to improve the turnaround time from sample receipt to result reporting. Shortening testing times benefits agricultural producers, who can turnaround uncontaminated product more quickly; and the public by allowing for more timely diversion of salmonella-contaminated eggs.

National Institutes of Food and Agriculture:

Recipient: Cheyney University of Pennsylvania

Location: 1837 University Circle, Cheyney, Pennsylvania 19319-0200

Amount Requested: \$300,000

Project Description: I urge the Subcommittee to provide funding for Cheyney University of Pennsylvania's Aquaculture Research and Education Center. This center conducts aquaculture research and, through its extension office, informs and educates producers in the aquaculture sector. In addition to supporting research and extension services, funding will augment the university's training program for aquaculture professionals.

Recipient: The Rodale Institute

Location: 611 Siegfriedale Rd., Kutztown, PA 19530-9749

Amount Requested: \$400,000

Project Description: I urge the Subcommittee to provide funding for The Rodale Institute and Pennsylvania State University, who have developed and will expand collaborative replicated research trials to refine sustainable crop production practices. These projects are being carried out at Pennsylvania State University research farms and at Rodale's 333 acre experimental farm, with assistance and input from county extension educators and collaborating farmers. The Rodale Institute and Pennsylvania State University will also provide annual workshop and field day series to share farming practice innovations with other farmers, researchers, extension agents, and the general public.

Recipient: Pennsylvania State University

Location: 117 Old Main, University Park, PA 16802

Amount Requested: \$825,000

Project Description: I urge the Subcommittee to provide funding for Pennsylvania State University for the Milk Safety program. Funds will help allow the university to respond quickly to emerging issues within the dairy industry. Continued progress in science-based solutions to food safety in the dairy industry is necessary to maintain consumer protection and confidence and to support the position of U.S. dairy products in the international market. Funding will support the development of tactics to enable dairy producers to reduce food-borne pathogens at the farm level, new technologies for processors that will contribute to economic sustainability, and improvements in the supply chain that will ensure continued delivery of a high quality, affordable, and safe product to consumers.

Recipient: Pennsylvania State University

Location: 117 Old Main, University Park, PA 16802

Amount Requested: \$500,000

Project Description: I urge the Subcommittee to provide funding for Pennsylvania State University to support the Enhanced Dairy Farm Profitability Through Bioenergy Diversification project. Energy issues represent a major constraint on dairy profitability. Funding will be used for research addressing on-farm energy production, new crops for Pennsylvania and the region, and cropping systems to balance dairy feed production and energy feedstock production to help Pennsylvania dairy farmers maintain profitable operations.

Recipient: Pennsylvania State University

Location: 117 Old Main, University Park, PA 16802

Amount Requested: \$400,000

Project Description: I urge the Subcommittee to provide funding for Pennsylvania State University for the Improved Dairy Management program. Past funding for this program has improved efficiency of nutrient use on dairy farms, which directly addresses critical state, regional, and national issues of water quality. The university's faculty has also developed tools and baseline data for dealing with air pollution from dairy operations, addressing a key mandate

from the EPA. The program also contributed to technical analyses of on-farm energy generation from by-products of dairy production. Funding will be used to continue and expand the program by supporting faculty research.

Recipient: Pennsylvania State University

Location: 117 Old Main, University Park, PA 16802

Amount Requested: \$400,000

Project Description: I urge the Subcommittee to provide funding for Pennsylvania State University for Pennsylvania Entrepreneurship Alternatives. Pennsylvania ranks third nationally in direct to consumer agriculture sales. Community Supported Agriculture and similar methods enhance the viability of sustainable farming practices by allowing farmers to capture more of the food dollar. Funding will be used to add members to an existing team focused on building entrepreneurial capacity of individual agricultural and food producers and infusing this capacity into research programs throughout the College.

Recipient: Northeast Energy and Environment Dairy System

Location: 201 Agriculture Engineering Building, University Park, PA 16802

Amount Requested: \$1 million

Project Description: I urge the Subcommittee to provide funding for the Northeast Energy and Environmental Dairy System project at Pennsylvania State University. Anaerobic digesters use manure to generate electricity. Farmers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, which encompasses much of Pennsylvania, are required to manage manure in a way that protects water quality. Anaerobic digesters hold the potential to enhance water quality in the Chesapeake Bay region, but the technology is cost-effective only for large herds. Funding will be used to develop and evaluate practical uses for anaerobic digester technologies for small and medium sized herds.

Recipient: Pennsylvania Center for Dairy Excellence

Location: Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Amount Requested: \$240,000

Project Description: I urge the Subcommittee to provide funding for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Center for Dairy Excellence. Funding for the Dairy Center will be used to continue the successful efforts of the Center to provide technical and financial assistance and guidance to dairy farmers, industry stakeholders, and policymakers.

Recipient: Pennsylvania Center for Beef Excellence

Location: Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Amount Requested: \$300,000

Project Description: I urge the Subcommittee to continue its support of the Center for Beef Excellence, which focuses on enhancing the profitability of the beef industry. Increased feed efficiency allows farmers to enhance profitability by lowering input costs. Funding will support the Center's work on increasing feed efficiency. Specifically, the Center is focused on genetically increasing the efficiency of herds through the introduction of new herd sires. Funding will augment the Center's work in finding correlations between genetic markers and feed efficiency.

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program: I urge the Subcommittee to support the President's request to fund SARE at \$30 million in FY 2011, with \$15 million for research and education, \$10 million for matching grants, and \$5 million for extension and

outreach. SARE provides valuable research and education grant opportunities supporting projects that support economic and environmentally sustainable agriculture.

Hatch Act: I urge the Subcommittee to provide increased funding for activities authorized by the Hatch Act of 1887, as amended. Hatch Act funds provide research opportunities at land-grant institutions in the areas of biofuels, food security and human health, including obesity and diabetes.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS):

Recipient: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Location: 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110

Amount Requested: \$550,000

Project Description: I urge the Subcommittee to provide funding for the Livestock Protection Program. Under this program, APHIS Wildlife Services will provide technical assistance, educational programs, and direct control services to reduce damage associated with mutually agreed upon wildlife species. The WS program uses an Integrated Wildlife Damage Management (IWDM) approach (sometimes referred to as IPM or “Integrated Pest Management”) in which a series of methods may be used or recommended to reduce wildlife damage. These methods include the alteration of cultural practices as well as habitat and behavioral modification, and local population management to prevent damage. The strategies used would include corrective action to current damage problems and preventative control to prevent future losses.

Wildlife Services Methods Development: I urge the Subcommittee to provide an increase of \$1,200,000 for Wildlife Services Methods Development to develop sensory methods for the protection of human safety and agriculture in suburban, urban and rural areas for risks posed by wildlife. This funding is in cooperation with National Wildlife Research Center and would be utilized to reestablish a USDA-APHIS-WS-National Wildlife Research Center Field Station in Philadelphia, PA. The focus will continue for wildlife sensory biology methods development for baits, lures, repellents, and disease diagnostic tools to directly address increased health issue concerns from threatening disease such as Lyme, Avian Flu, and Rabies.

In the interest of full disclosure, Alex Rahn of Wanner Associates, who was formerly employed by me, represents Monell Chemical Senses Center in seeking federal funding for fiscal year 2011. I request that you provide full and fair scrutiny when considering this funding request.

Agricultural Market Service (AMS):

Farmers Market Promotion Program: Direct marketing of products to consumers supports local food systems, and allows farmers to capture more of the retail food dollar. I urge the Subcommittee to increase funding for the Farmers Market Promotion Program, which is part of the Administration’s Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food initiative. This program provides assistance to farmers markets, roadside stands, and community supported agriculture.

Importantly, projects that focus on increasing access to healthy food for low-income residents receive priority.

National Organics Program: I support the President's request of \$10,100,000 for the National Organics Program, which was funded at \$7,000,000 in fiscal year 2010. The National Organic Program (NOP) develops, implements, and administers national production, handling, and labeling standards. Increased funding will help protect the integrity of the organic label and allow for proper enforcement of national organic standards.

Title II-Conservation Programs

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Farm and Ranchlands Protection

Program: I urge the Subcommittee to reject the Administration's proposed cuts to Farm Bill conservation programs. Specifically, I urge the Committee to permit full funding of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program. The mandatory funding provided in the 2008 Farm Bill for these conservation programs is a valuable tool in addressing the environmental challenges we face.

Recipient: Lancaster County Conservation District

Location: 863 Ballstown Road, Lititz, PA 17543

Amount: \$200,000

Project Description: I urge the Subcommittee to provide \$200,000 to the Lancaster County Conservation District to supplement their efforts to enhance water quality in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed by implementing stream fencing, riparian buffers, and other conservation measures on farms in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

Title III-Rural Economic and Community Development Programs

Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBCS):

Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (ATTRA): This program provides farmers with fast, free and up-to-date information on a wide range of issues facing the agricultural community, including pest control, sustainable agriculture, marketing, and soil fertility. ATTRA is the only national program to provide one-on-one technical assistance on sustainable agriculture and marketing to all 50 states. To continue this important program, I urge the Subcommittee to provide \$3 million.

Title IV- Domestic Food Programs

Food and Nutrition Service (FNS):

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP): I urge the Subcommittee to provide \$100 million for TEFAP activities. In light of the economic struggles many American families now face, the need for short-term emergency food assistance is increasing.

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC): I urge the Subcommittee to provide increased funding for the WIC program. This program provides nutritious supplemental foods to low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breast-feeding women, to infants, and to children up to age five who are at nutritional risk.

Food Bank Infrastructure Grant Program: The 2008 Farm Bill authorized \$15 million annually to help food banks maintain and improve facilities and other equipment for storing and transporting food. The costs of these activities are substantial. I urge the Subcommittee to provide \$15 million for grants to help food banks meet the challenge of high transportation costs in rural, under-served areas.

National Veterinary Medical Services Act: I urge the Subcommittee to provide \$5 million for implementation of the student loan program created by National Veterinary Medical Services Act (NVMSA). There is a national shortage of veterinarians, specifically food animal veterinarians in rural areas. Many young veterinary college graduates would like to practice and live in rural areas, but their educational loan debt prohibits them from doing so. NVMSA will lower the financial barriers to rural practice for the next generation of veterinarians, strengthening national food safety, emergency preparedness, animal welfare, and local communities.

Title VI – Related Agencies and Food and Drug Administration

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA): The FDA regulates the safety of foods and the safety and effectiveness of drugs, biologics, and medical devices. I urge the Subcommittee to support the President's request for the Food and Drug Administration.

Critical Path Public-Private Partnerships: I urge the Subcommittee to provide full-funding for the Critical Path Public-Private Partnerships program. Funding will be used for extramural research activities that will foster innovative, collaborative projects in research, education, and outreach in order to foster medical product innovation.